

BAR recently removed station information from the vehicle test history feature on the BAR Web page. This feature was originally added to the BAR Web page to provide consumers with vehicle-specific Smog Check history for vehicles they either own or are considering buying.

The recent removal of station information from the Web page does not affect consumers learning about a vehicle's Smog Check history. It does, however, keep consumers from learning about which station previously certified a vehicle. For most consumers, this is not a concern. In cases where consumers were having difficulty getting a vehicle to properly pass inspection, however, the station information was providing a road map for consumers to find a station willing to certify the vehicle. Clearly, this is an unintended use of this information and has the potential to negatively affect the quality of the Smog Check Program.

We are aware that some station owners and technicians used the Smog Check history Web page to help BAR identify stations that are not following Smog Check laws and regulations. While we appreciate receiving industry tips, the Web page was not critical for BAR to investigate these matters. When a technician fails a vehicle with significant problems, and then notices that it was passed suspiciously soon afterward, he or she should still contact their local BAR field office. The BAR field representative assigned to investigate the tip will access the Smog Check database for all information relevant to the case, including the station and technician who tested the vehicle.